

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-4 will remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits.

Support for newly added claim 4 occurs in the original specification at page 18, lines 5-6. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

***Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103***

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davies et al. (EP 0 711 828). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested based upon the following considerations.

*The Present Invention and Its Advantages*

In each of Applicants' independent claims 1-2, there is provided a solid-shaped detergent comprising particles for detergent. Each of the solid-shaped detergents of independent claims 1 and 2 is excellent in fast dissolubility being capable of quickly dissolving in water after supplying the same there into, and at the same time also possesses sufficient mechanical strength upon drying.

Notably, in each of claims 1-2, at the ends thereof, it is specifically stated as follows:

*"...wherein said base particle is obtained by the steps comprising carrying out spray-drying of a slurry, and wherein said base particle has a water content of 10% by weight or less."*

Accordingly, based upon the above recitation occurring at the end of each of independent claims 1-2, it is clear that the base particles of the present invention are obtained by carrying out a spray-drying of a slurry.

*Distinctions over the Cited Art*

The Examiner cites Davies EP '828 as rendering obvious claims 1-3 of the present invention. However, it is submitted that in no way does the cited Davies EP '828 reference render obvious the present invention. In this regard, Davies may disclose detergent compositions that are compacted to form tablets, but the only examples and teachings given in Davies are to granulated products. That is, Davies never teaches, discloses or suggests the use of spray-dried particles as a base particle, which is completely different from the present invention.

Accordingly, based upon the failure of the cited Davies EP '828 reference to teach or otherwise provide any disclosure relating to the use of base particles like those occurring in the present invention, it follows that the same Davies EP '828 reference is incapable of providing any proper foundation for the

asserted rejection under 35 USC § 103(a). As such, the rejection cannot be sustained and must be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of US 6,645,931 and US 6,376,453 in view of Davies.

In response to each of the double-patenting rejections, there are herewith enclosed appropriate terminal disclaimers to thereby obviate the rejections. Each of the terminal disclaimers is submitted to be in a proper format for overcoming the rejections, and the appropriate fees for filing the terminal disclaimers are enclosed with the present response.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims 1-4 are allowable at present.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s): Terminal Disclaimers